

III. REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Miyazaki (Robust Header Compression...) for reasons set forth in the Action.

The claims have been amended, and new claims are presented to distinguish the present invention from the teachings of the cited art. The independent claims 1 and 8 are amended by including a feature of "including the length definition of said context identifier as a part of the context identifier field of the data packet being transmitted". This is disclosed in the present specification on p. 9, line 22 - p. 10, line 15. Furthermore, two new independent claims 11-12, directed to a network element and to a mobile station according to the present invention, are presented. The claims are believed to contain allowable subject matter in view of the following argument.

The Examiner has rejected all claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Miyazaki Akihiro et al. "Robust header compression using keyword-packets", May 2000. Miyazaki discloses a packet header that comprises a field that indicates the CID (context identifier) length. However, Miyazaki does not disclose a solution, wherein the length definition of the context identifier is included within the context identifier field of a data packet being transmitted. Accordingly, Miyazaki does not anticipate the invention according to the present claims.

It is noted that, contrary to the practice of the present invention, Miyazaki discloses a method for determining the

length of the CID by a separate length field included in the packet header; the length data is not placed in the CID field. Furthermore, in Miyazaki, the length of the CID is determined at the beginning of a session, and cannot be changed during the session. To implement a change, in the system of Miyazaki, the receiver must specifically request a change, whereupon a new session must be started.

Moreover, there are situations wherein it would be preferable to have different lengths of CIDs for forward channel and return channel. A problem situation like this is disclosed in the present specification (page 8, line 22 to page 9, line 18). Miyazaki does not disclose a solution to this problem. Furthermore, when decompressing the packet headers according to Miyazaki, the whole packet header and its fields have to be analyzed in order to determine the length and value of CID.

The problem underlying the present invention is to provide a flexible and fast method to change the length of CID such that a dynamic change of the length of CID is enabled even during the session.

The problem is solved by including the length definition of the context identifier as a part of the context identifier field of the data packet being transmitted. In this way, a change in the length of CID does not affect to the structure of the rest of the packet header, since the length of CID is defined internally in a single packet header field, namely, in the CID field. The example of present Fig. 4 and the corresponding description in the specification (p. 10, lines 1-15) illustrate a situation, wherein two bits of CID field have been used for the CID length definition. If desired, some other number of bits can be used

for CID length definition. Furthermore, when decompressing the packet headers according to present invention, only the CID field has to be analyzed in order to solve the length and the value of CID.

The invented method is particularly advantageous in versatile data communication situations in mobile communication networks, wherein different lengths of CIDs for forward channel and return channel would typically be advantageous. The optimization of the length of CID results, for example, in the improved use of radio resources.

Miyazaki does not give a skilled man any suggestion of this kind of solution. On the contrary, Miyazaki teaches a skilled man to use a packet header, which has a separate field for the CID length definition. Therefore, Miyazaki teaches away from the present invention, and would mislead a man, skilled in the art, from obtaining the solution of the present invention to the above stated problem. Clearly, Miyazaki does not teach one how to provide a dynamically changeable CID length during a session.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$320.00 is enclosed for a one-month extension of time as well as one additional independent claim fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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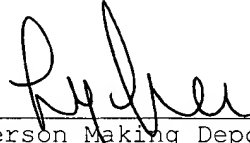


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